

### **Dates Prohibited on Certificates of Organic Operation**

**Q.** Can an accredited certifying agent include an expiration date or renewal date on a certificate of organic operation?

**A.** No. Section 205.404(c) provides that once certified, a production or handling operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered by the organic operation or suspended or revoked by the certifying agent, the State organic program's governing State official, or the Administrator. Accordingly, the NOP prohibits any language on the certificate of organic operation that indicates an expiration or renewal date.

In order to minimize confusion, NOP encourages all accredited certifying agents to prominently display the phrase, "Certification good until surrendered, suspended, or revoked." on the certificate of organic operation.

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